

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 EURE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /066 W

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O R 181624Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6267

INFO USMISSION UN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFL

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PLOS GR TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 8413

1. THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF THE GREEK
APPEAL CONCERNING THE AEGEAN, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIK I
AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS REMAIN THE PREDOMINANT NEWS ITEMS
IN THE GREEK PRESS (DUE TO A LOCAL HOLIDAY NO NEWSPAPERS
WERE PUBLISHED FROM SUNDAY MORNING UNTIL TUESDAY AFTERNOON).
EARLIER CONFIDENCE THAT THINGS WERE GOING WELL FOR THE GREEK
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SIDE IN NEW YORK HAS ERODED, AND THERE ARE NOW EXPRESSIONS OF

UNEASINESS AND, IN SOME CASES, FEAR THAT THE OUTCOME MAY NOT BE AS FAVORABLE TO GREECE AS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED BY THE MEDIA. SOME NEWSPAPERS TODAY (AUG 18) HEADLINE THAT SECY KISSINGER HAD OPPOSED THE EARLIER DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE EUROPEANS BECAUSE IT FAVORED GREECE. HE WAS REPORTED TO BE SEEKING A FORMULATION WHICH WOULD ALSO SATISFY TURKEY. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH TO VIMA AND TA NEA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION SISTER PAPERS) IN THEIR HEADLINES ACCUSED THE SECRETARY OF "PRO-TURKISH INTERVENTION", WHILE PRO-GOVT ACROPOLIS BANNER HEADLINED "KISSINGER TORPEDOES THE RESOLUTION FAVORING GREECE." MOST DESPATCHES FROM NEW YORK MENTION THE INTENSE BEHIND THE SCENES ACTIVITY - ESPECIALLY OF THE NATO COUNTRIES ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL INCLUDING THE US- TO FIND A COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY.

2. OTHER STORIES REPORT ON THE ABORTIVE TURKISH ATTEMPT TO GET SUPPORT FOR A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS AND CRITICIZE GREECE FOR MILITARIZING THEM. THE SAILING OF THE SISMIK I FROM IZMIR AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT FOR THE THIRD PHASE OF ITS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE AEGEAN WAS ALSO REPORTED. MANY STORIES REFER TO THE SISMIK'S ACTIVITIES (WITH SOME PAPERS HIGHLIGHTING TURKISH REPORTS THAT THESE WOULD BE IN THE AREA OF CRETE) AS A DIRECT SLAP TO THE UNSC. TURKISH DEMANDS THAT GREECE DEMILITARIZE THE ISLANDS IN THE EASTERN AEGEAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1923 LAUSAANE AND 1947 PARIS TREATIES, AND THE APPEAL BY THE ANNUAL GREEK-AMERICAN AHEPA CONGRESS IN HOUSTON TO THE USG FOR FIRM DIPLOMATIC ACTION IN RESOLVING THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE ALSO RECEIVED COVERAGE. THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON THE GREEK APPEAL AUG 16 AND SPECULATION THAT BOTH SIDES MIGHT BE INVITED TO PRESENT THEIR PUBLIC ARGUMENTS TO THE COURT AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK ARE LIKEWISE NOTEWORTHY ITEMS.

3. THE PRESS HAS DEMONSTRATED A CONTINUING CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET INITIATIVE IN MAKING A DEMARCHE IN ATHENS AND ANKARA CALLING FOR RESTRAINT AND NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL). WHILE THE PRO-MOSCOW ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR, RIZOSPASTIS, WAS ALONE IN PRAISING THE SOVIET MOVE AS AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACT CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE, MUCH OF THE PRESS WAS IN AGREEMENT IN LABELING THE RUSSIAN EFFORT AS PRO-TURKISH. SOME QUESTIONED WHY THE USSR HAD WAITED SO LONG TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON THE AEGEAN CRISES WHILE OTHERS FAULTED THE SOVIETS FOR FAILING TO CONDEMN TURKEY FOR VIOLATING GREEK RIGHTS. PRO-PASOK ATHINAIKI ACCUSED THE USSR OF BRINGING PRESSURE ON GREECE TO CAVE IN TO TURKEY SO THAT THE USSR AND THE US

CAN JOINTLY SHARE THE AEGEAN.

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT CONTINUES GENERALLY TO ENDORSE THE CARAMANLIS POLICY OF SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, ALTHOUGH SOME MUTED CRITICISM HAS SURFACED IN LEFTIST NEWSPAPERS THAT DECISION-MAKING IS OVERLY CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THAT GREECE SHOULD SEEK A MORE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY. AS AN FILLIP, YESTERDAY, THE FAMOUS POPULAR COMPOSER, AND LEFTIST POLITIAL ACTIVIST, MIKIS THEODORAKIS SHARPLY ATTACKED EXTREME LEFTIST PASOK CHIEFTAIN ANDREAS PAPANDREOU IN A COLUMN ENTITLED "THE HAWKS OF DISSENT" FOR ADVOCATING THAT GREECE SINK THE SISMIK I AND FOR BRINGING DIVISIVENESS TO THE GREEK NATION. THEODORAKIS' STANCE WAS FAIRLY WIDELY PLAYED IN THE PRESS TODAY AND ENDORSED BY MUCH OF THE MEDIA, ALTHOUGH ATHINAIKI CHARGED THEODORAKIS HAD BECOME A GOVERNMENT APOLOGIST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISPUTES, AEGEAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS08573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-0041
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760844/aaaablwf.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 8413
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006